

Drew Pearson's Incentive

DALLAS—Dallas wide receiver Drew Pearson began the 1980 season needing 31 receptions to become the Cowboys' all-time leading pass catcher. But he had another reason for wanting this year to be a special one.

Said Pearson, "This year I have an extra motivation because my father has been sick. I want to play this year

for him since I may not have another chance to see him."

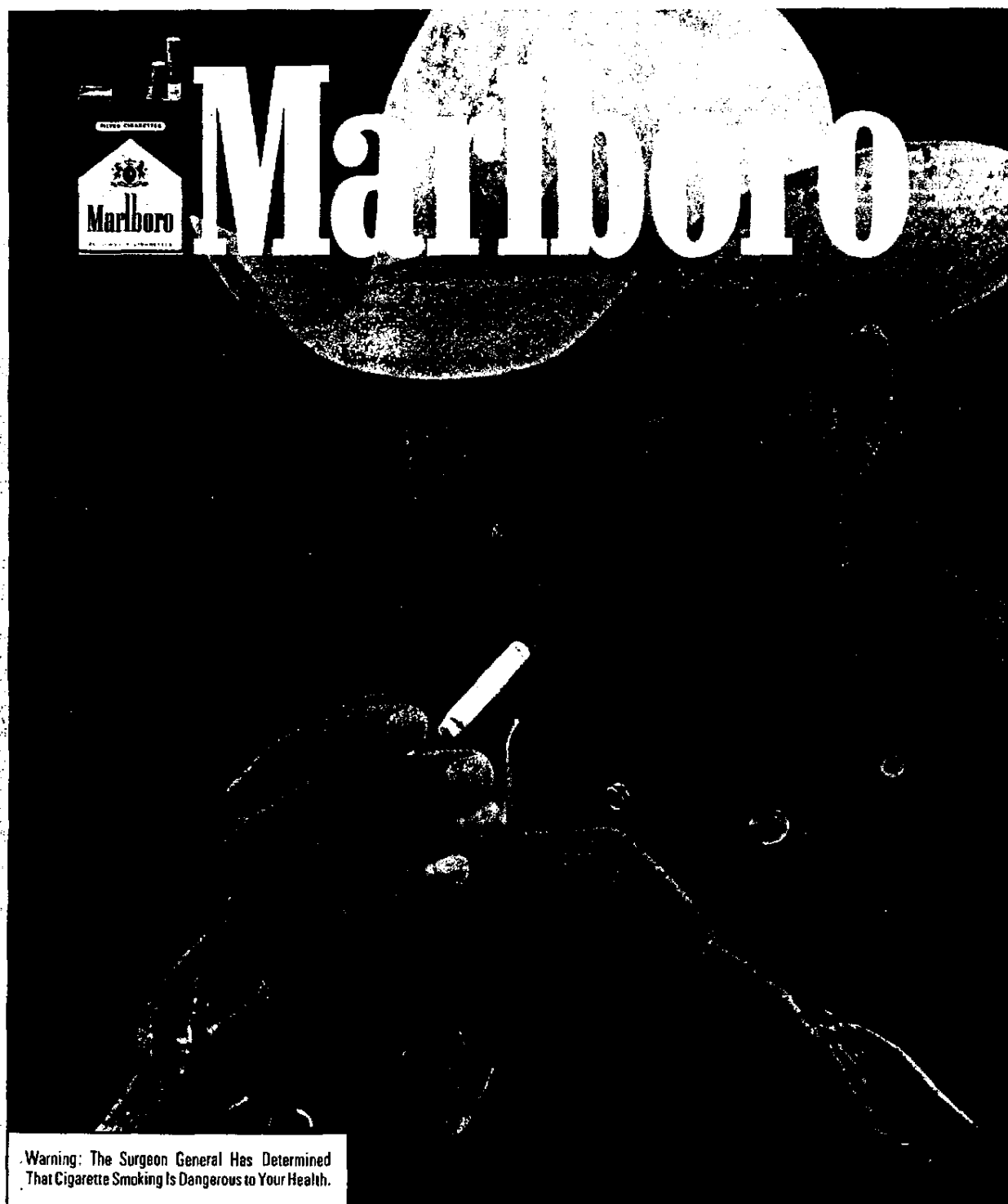
Pearson's father has lung cancer and the Cowboys' man in the clutch knows how swiftly life can be taken away. During training camp, he said, "He's fighting a battle. Looking at that puts a lot of other things in perspective.

"You come out here and gripe about being tired and practicing every day. Then you look at what he has to go through every day and you feel like what you're doing isn't

that spectacular or hard. It's easy compared to the battle he has to fight every day."

Pearson, in addition to his on-field exploits, is actively involved in his community. He was one of three Dallas players nominated for the NFL Man of the Year award. But his heart is with his father. He said, "Every time I step onto the field, I'm thinking about that."

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That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.

17 mg "tar," 1.1 mg nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report Dec. 79